(e) The main recommendations emerging from the interactive session are as follows:

(i) The power sector is a basic infrastructure requirement for the economy. It is a well regulated sector with good returns on investment. It is capital intensive and hence requires adequate funding, needing an increase in exposure limits from banks and financial institutions.

(ii) Timely coal linkage is to be granted to new power projects by holding regular and more frequent meetings of Standing Linkage Committee (Long-Term).

(iii) Natural gas may be made available to power projects on the highest priority to avoid standard/idle generating capacity.

(iv) Transmission tie-up is to be arranged for private power projects.

(v) Ministry of Power may review and liberalise the procedure of granting Mega Status to power projects.

(vi) Land acquisition process and various statutory clearances for power projects could be expedited.

(f) The following measures have been taken by the Government to help power projects to achieve their targets:

(i) Rigorous monitoring of capacity addition of the on-going power generation projects.

(ii) Sensitizing the industry to the needs of increasing manufacturing capacity and widening the vendor base for Main Plant equipment and Balance of Plants like Coal Handling Plant, Ash Handling, Plant, Water Treatment Plant, etc., by organizing international conclave, regional workshops, etc.

(iii) Development of extensive network of transmission system commensurate with the capacity addition programme. Addition of new inter-regional transmission capacities through development of National Grid.

(iv) Ensuring availability of funds through Power Finance Corporation (PFC) and Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) so that viable projects are not hampered.

(v) Coordination with various agencies to ensure backward and forward linkages for the upcoming projects including fuel linkages and various statutory clearances.

(vi) Creation of Special Purpose Vehicles for expediting land acquisition, water availability, coal block allotment and initiating environment clearance for Ultra Mega Power Projects.

Internal assurance cell in universities and colleges

*296. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the University Grants Commission (UGC) has asked all the universities and colleges in the country to have an internal assurance cell, to improve the quality of higher education being imparted;

(b) if so, whether all the Central Universities and colleges are monitored by the UGC, in so far as imparting of higher education is concerned;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) what other steps Government proposes to take to improve standard of education in colleges and universities, in consultation with the State Governments?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (c) All Universities and Colleges accredited by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council are required to establish an Internal Quality Assurance Cell. An amount of Rs. 5.00 lakh has been indicated to each of the eligible Central Universities for the purpose of setting up of these Cells.

(d) Improvement of quality of higher education is a continuous process. A substantial increase in Plan allocation has been made in the Eleventh Plan for the expansion of higher education, for setting up of institutions such as Central Universities in uncovered States, establishment of National Universities aiming for world class standard, Indian Institutes of Technology, Indian Institutes of Management, Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research, Indian Institutes of Information Technology and Schools for Planning and Architecture. Expansion of capacity of the existing institutions, incentivising State Governments for increasing State outlays on higher education, strengthening of science based research in Universities, regular updating of curricula, introduction of semester system etc., Faculty Improvement Programmes and other reforms have been/are being taken up during the Eleventh Plan for improving the quality and relevance of higher education. It has also been decided to make National Eligibility Test (NET) compulsory for appointment as teachers, except for those who have obtained Ph.D. degrees in the relevant disciplines from universities following the norms for enrolment, course work and evaluation as may be prescribed by the UGC and for those subjects for which NET is not available. A decision has been taken to improve pay, other emoluments and service conditions of teachers in higher education in order to attract talented persons to teaching careers. It has also been decided to create posts of Professors in Under Graduate Colleges in order to improve quality of collegiate teaching.

Appointment of judges to Supreme Court

*297. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court's panel, responsible for appointments and promotions of judges to the Supreme Court, has rejected Government's objections to its latest round of recommendations for promotions;

(b) the reasons for Government's refusal and asking the Chief Justice of India to reconsider the names for elevation; and

(c) whether it has escalated the conflict between Judiciary and the Parliament, and if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (c) The Judges of the High Courts and Supreme Court are appointed according to the procedure laid down in Articles 217 and 124 respectively of the Constitution of India. In the case of Advocates-on-Record *vs.* Union of India, the Supreme Court interpreted the procedure laid down that the consultation with the Chief